

Mountain Home Air Force Range No. 1

Location

- The Mountain Home AFR No. 1 is located in Owyhee County; 30 miles southwest of Mountain Home, Idaho.
- The 2, 564.22 acre range is represented as a 3,000-foot radius circle with the bombing target at the center of the circle.
- Topography at the site is flat with minor gorges and gullies. The ground surface at the site gently slopes to the north and northeast. Elevation at the site ranges from 3, 275 ft in the north within an unnamed gully to 3,500 ft in the southwest corner.

History

- Prior to operation of the Mountain Home AFR No. 1, the area was comprised of undeveloped land managed by the Department of Interior, (DOI).
- The land was acquired from the DOI by Public Land Order 172 on September 7, 1943. Acquired land included an access road that extended from the southwest corner of the range to the Poison Creek Cutoff road located to the southwest.
- The site was used as a high altitude bombing range from 1944 to 1953. From 1953 to 1958, the site remained under control of the U.S. Air Force but was not used as a bombing range. The range was retransferred to the DOI by Public Land Order 1898 on July 13, 1959.
- Ownership of the land has remained with the DOI, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), since relinquishment by the U.S. Air Force.

Project History

- **Certificate of Clearance for Mountain Home AFR No. 1:**
A Certificate of Clearance was issued for Mountain Home AFR No. 1 on June 13, 1957 and signed by Herbert G. Tyson, Captain, U.S. Air Force. The certificate was issued as an enclosure to a letter to BLM Supervisor for the State of Idaho dated February 14, 1958. This certificate states: “All of the above described land has been cleared of all dangerous and/or explosive materials reasonable possible to detect. There are no restrictions on the future use of all lands in Sections 26, 27 and 35. It is recommended that all lands in Section 34 be restricted to surface use only. It is possible that sub-surface ordnance remains undetected in Section 34 because of surface distortion caused by previous range clearance. It is recommended that Section 34 not be marked as a restricted area, since no danger exists during surface use. All present and/or future

owners and inhabitants of these lands are hereby advised that if at any time an item identified or suspicious of being military ordnance is located, the nearest government or civil authorities should be immediately notified. Non-explosive scrap from the previous range clearance is buried on the range in the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of Section 34.” The certificate further states: “The land has been cleared of all dangerous or explosive materials and restored to a condition satisfactory to the Bureau of Land Management Supervisor for the State of Idaho.”

- **Inventory Project Report (USACE, 1988)**

A Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) FUDS Draft Inventory Project Report (INPR) for the Mountain Home AFR No. 1 was completed in May 1988. The findings determined that the site had been formerly used by the DoD and was therefore eligible under the DERP program. A Risk Assessment Code (RAC) of 5 was assigned to the bombing range.

- ***Archives Search Report (USACE, 2004a)***

USACE completed an ASR in September 2004 to assess the presence or absence of contamination from facility activities. The ASR included a visit to the site on April 21, 2004. The primary purpose of the site visit was to assess the presence of MEC through non-intrusive means. Interviews, historical research, and site reconnaissance determined:

- The U.S. Army Air Corps used conventional ordnance at Mountain Home AFR No. 1.
- Ordnance and explosives used at the range included:
- Sand-filled M38A2, 100-lb practice bombs,
- Practice bomb spotting charges, and ‘GP HE bombs (based on the finding of an AN-M100 series fuze).

No evidence for the use of chemical warfare materials storage or use at the range exists

- **INPR Supplement (USACE, 2004b)**

An *INPR Supplement* was completed in November 2004 identified the Air Force Range No. 1 as bombing range (649 acres), assigned a RAC score of 5, and confirmed use of M38A2 practice bombs and remnants of a high explosive fuze on the range. No additional new information is provided in the document.

- **Summary of Previous Investigations**

Known use of Munitions Explosive Concern (MEC) MEC on the former Mountain Home AFR No. 1 consists of:

- 100-lb Practice bombs (M38A2) and
- Spotting charges (M1A1).

Suspected use of MEC on the former Mountain Home AFR No. 1 is based on the finding of an AN-M100 series fuze. Suspected MEC consist of:

- 100-lb GP HE bombs (AN-M30),
- Bomb tail fuzes (AN-M100 series), and
- Bomb nose fuzes (AN-M103A1), associated with AN-M30 GP HE bombs.